

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 251545 TOSEC 160257

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 13135 ACTION SECSTATE 22 OCT 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC PINS LE

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF TWO USIA OFFICERS

REF: BEIRUT 13114

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT TOOK PLACE
PRIOR TO AND DURING TIME OF KIDNAPPING AS RELATED

TO RSO BY MISS SALWA FAKHOURY. MISS FAKHOURY

WAS ONE OF TWO LEBANESE LADY EMPLOYEES WHO

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PAGE 02 STATE 251545 TOSEC 160257

WAS WITH GALLAGHER AND DYKES.

1. GALLAGHER PICKED UP FAKHOURY AND MARGO ZILIFIAN, BOTH RSC EMPLOYEES, IN FRONT OF THE SQUAD 16 (POLICE) HQ ON CORNICHE MAZRAA AT APPROXIMATELY 0630 HR ON 22 OCTOBER 1975. AT APPROXIMATELY 0640 THE CAR WITH FOUR PEOPLE WAS JUST CROSSING RUE OMAR EL KHATTAB WHEN A MAN YELLED "STOP" IN ARABIC. THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD. THERE WERE 4-5 ARMED MEN ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD BESIDE A LITTLE SHACK ON THE CORNER OF RUE BILAL 62 AND CORNICHE MAZRAA. THE LATTER WAS NOT OBSERVED AT THIS TIME. GALLAGHER AND DYKES DO NOT SPEAK ARABIC. BOTH MEN WERE SEATED IN THE FRONT AND GALLAGHER WAS DRIVING. HE APPARENTLY HEARD THE MAN YELL BECAUSE HE SLOWED DOWN BUT DID NOT COME TO A COMPLETE STOP. AGAIN THE MAN YELLED "HALT" IN ARABIC AND WAS READY TO FIRE. HE WAS ARMED WITH AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLE. OF THE TWO WOMAN EMPLOYEES OF RSC ONLY MARGO ZILIFIAN COULD SPEAK ENGLISH AND SHE TRANSLATED THE MAN'S CALL TO HALT, WHICH GALLAGHER DID.

2. WITH THE CAR HALTED IN THE EAST BOUND LANE OF CORNICHE MAZRAA THE ARMED MAN CAME AND LOOKED AT THE CD 104 LICENSE PLATES IN FRONT AND REAR AND WALKED OVER TO GALLAGHER. GALLAGHER SPOKE TO THE MAN IN ENGLISH. THE MAN LOOKED ACROSS GALLAGHER TO THE WOMEN AND ASKED, "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" FAKHOURY REPLIED "THERE", INDICATING THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF EAST. GALLAGHER ATTEMPTED TO PULL OUT HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY ID CARD AND AS HE EXTRACTED THE CARD THE ARMED MAN OPENED GALLAGHER'S CAR DOOR AND TOOK THE ID CARD. AT THIS POINT, THE MAN SEEMED VERY PLEASED SAYING, "AN AMERICAN--WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. VERY GOOD."

3. THE ARMED MAN THEN MOTIONED GALLAGHER AND DYKES TO GET OUT OF THE CAR AND TOLD THE WOMEN

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PAGE 03 STATE 251545 TOSEC 160257

TO GET OUT OF THE VEHICLE. THEY ALL ASSEMBLED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CORNICHE. GALLAGHER AND DYKES WERE DIRECTED BY WAVES WITH THE AK-47 RIFLE. AGAIN THE MAN ASKED, "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?" FAKHOURY, AT THIS POINT, NOT WISHING TO REVEAL HER CONNECTION WITH THE AMERICANS, AND THEREBY PERHAPS RETAIN HER FREEDOM TO REPORT THE INCIDENT, ADVISED THAT SHE AND ZILIFIAN WERE

ENROUTE TO THE PALACE OF JUSTICE WHICH IS ON CORNICHE, JUST DOWN FROM WHERE THEY WERE STOPPED. THE ARMED MAN ASKED WHERE THE MEN WERE GOING. FAKHOURY REPLIED THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW. THE ARMED MAN ASKED HOW IT WAS THAT THEY WERE IN THE CAR WITH THE AMERICANS IF THE WOMEN DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY WERE GOING? FAKHOURY RESPONDED THAT SHE AND ZILIFIAN WERE WAITING FOR A SERVICE TAXI WHEN GALLAGHER AND DYKES DROVE UP AND OFFERED THEM A LIFT WHICH THEY ACCEPTED. THE ARMED MAN APPARENTLY BOUGHT THIS STORY, NOT THINKING IT REMARKABLE THAT THE WOMEN WERE SPEAKING ONLY IN ARABIC AND GALLAGHER WAS SPEAKING ONLY IN ENGLISH.

4. THE ARMED MAN THEN DEMANDED THE ID CARD OF THE TWO WOMEN. HE LOOKED THEM OVER AND HANDED THEM BACK. AS HE HANDED THE CARDS BACK HE TOLD THE WOMEN TO GO. THEY DID NOT GO. FAKHOURY APPROACHED THE ARMED MAN AND PUT HER HAND ON HIS ARM ASKING HIM TO LET THE AMERICANS GO. SHE ASKED FOR THE ARMED MAN'S NAME BUT HE DID NOT REPLY. THE ARMED MAN THEN TOLD THE WOMEN TO GO AND MOTIONED GALLAGHER AND DYKES AWAY FROM THEM, SEPARATING THEM INTO TWO GROUPS.

5. AT THIS POINT, GALLAGHER TURNED AS IF TO SPEAK TO ZILIFIAN BUT FAKHOURY MOTIONED TO GALLAGHER NOT TO TALK AND TRIED TO INDICATE THAT SHE WOULD TELEPHONE. FAKHOURY WAS NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT GALLAGHER UNDERSTOOD, BUT HE MADE NO FURTHER EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE. THE ARMED MAN AGAIN, VIROUROUSLY, TOLD FAKHOURY AND ZILIFIAN TO LEAVE, THEN CALLED THEM BACK TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE ADDRESSES ON THE ID CARDS.

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PAGE 04 STATE 251545 TOSEC 160257

BOTH ZILIFIAN AND FAKHOURY LIVE IN THE MAZRAA AREA AND THEIR ID CARDS SO INDICATED, HE ALSO TOLD THEM, " YOU HEARD NOTHING YOU SAW NOTHING".

6. THE MAN AGAIN TOLD THEM TO GO, AND THIS TIME THEY DID. THEY CROSSED RUE OMAR EL KHATTAB, THEN CUT ACROSS THE MEDIAN STRIP TO THE HOSPITAL. AS THEY WERE LEAVING, ONE OF THE ARMED MEN WHO WAS STANDING BY A LITTLE SHACK ON THE CORNER OF RUE BILAL 62 CAME OVER TO JOIN THE FIRST MAN. THE FIRST MAN MUST HAVE NOTICED A GROUP OF PEOPLE BY THE HOSPITAL FOR THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE HE YELLED AT THEM TO GET BACK INSIDE. TO EMPHASIZE HIS POINT HE FIRED TWO BURSTS OF ROUNDS IN THEIR GENERAL DIRECTION. THE WOMEN WERE ON THE MEDIAN STRIP WHEN THE SHOTS WERE FIRED.

7 AT THE TWO BURSTS OF RIFLE SHOTS, THE WOMEN RAN ACROSS THE

STREET TO THE HOSPITAL AND STARTED WALKING WEST. AS SOON AS THEY GOT TO THE CORNER OF CORNICHE MAZRAA AND THE RUE BASTA, THE CAR WITH GALLAGHER AND DYKES IN THE BACK SEAT WAS SEEN TURNING FROM THE CORNICHE ON TO RUE BASTZ, HEADING NORTH, TOWARD THE BORJ. THE WOMEN THEN TOOK A SERVICE TO THEIR HOME AREA AND CALLED MR. EVANS RSC TO REPORT.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

1. AT NO TIME WERE ANY NAMES USED.
2. ONLY THE FIRST ARMED TALKED WITHIN THE HEARING OF SOURCE.
3. THERE WAS NO ROAD BLOCK, PER SE. THERE WERE 4-5 MEN ON THE NORTH SIDE (WEST BOUND LANE) NEAR A SMALL SHACK AT THE CORNER OF RUE BILAL 62 STANDING NEXT TO A SOLID GREEN LAND ROVER WITH A MACHINE GUN MOUNTED ON A PYLON IN THE BEHIND OF THE TRUCK. THE TRYCK WAS FACING NORTH, TOWARD THE SOUK AREAM NO LICENSE PLATE WAS OBSERVED. THERE WAS THE ONE ARMED MAN ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CORNICHE MAZRAA (EAST BOUND LANE). ALL WERE DRESSED IN THE SAME UNIFORM EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN WHO WORE A " KAFFUR" ON HIS HEAD. THE KAFFIR WAS WHITE WITH NAVY BLUE STRIPES AT EACH END.
4. ONLY ONE MAN COULD BE DESCRIBED WITH ANY ASSURANCE; THIS WAS THE MAN WHO STOOPED THE CAR AND DID THE TALKING
HEIGHT: ABOUT 6 FEET
WEIGHT: UNKNOWN, 140-150(POUNDS
AGE: YOUNG
BUILD: VERY THIN
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PAGE 05 STATE 251545 TOSEC 160257

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: NONE
NATIONALITY BY ACCENT THE MAN WAS LEBABSES.

5. UNIFORMS:
SHIRT: DARK GREEN FATIGUES
TROUSERS: DARK GREEN
HEADGEAR: NONE (WITH THE EXCEPTION NOTED)
ARMS : AK-47

IDENTIFYING INSIGNIA: OVAL, APPROX 3" (LONG AXIS).
LBY 2" (SHORT AXIS) RED BORDER GREEN BACKGROUND, RED DEVICE WHICH RESEMBLED A ROUGH CRESCENT, ENDS POINTING UP, SHAPED SOMETHING LIKE THE BLADE OF A SCIMTAR.

GODLEX

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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